

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Add two section headings, a section subheading, and a paragraph immediately after the new title HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRE WITH TREAD BAND HAVING AN ANISOTROPIC UNDERLAYER STABLE WITH TEMPERATURE VARIATION, as follows:

a

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation application of International Application No. PCT/EP00/06357, filed July 4, 2000, in the European Patent Office, the contents of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference; additionally, Applicant claims the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 99202260.8, filed July 9, 1999, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicant claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/145,976, filed July 29, 1999, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**Field of the Invention--**

Page 1, line 4, add section subheading --Description of the Related Art-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "These tyres, which are commonly referred to as . . . ."

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Page 3, line 7, add section heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The invention arises from the Applicant's realization . . ."

Page 4, line 12, add section heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "These and further features of the invention . . ."

Page 4, line 18, add section heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "In the drawings, reference 1 indicates . . ."

Add a new page 18 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 18 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

✓ --ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A high performance tyre includes a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply, a belt including two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass, a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt, and a tread band comprising an underlayer and an external layer. The underlayer may have a hardness which is substantially constant over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C. The underlayer may also have an elastic modulus which is substantially constant over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C. Additionally, the underlayer may be made from an elastomer

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